

Application No. 10/566,988
Amendment dated December 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2007

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Docket No.: 80316(302753)

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 and 14-17 are pending in this application, of which claims 7-12, 14-15 and 17 have been amended. Claim 13 has been canceled. No new claims have been added.

The drawings stand objected to, and claims 10 and 17 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, for failing to identify in the drawings or the Specification the "auxiliary coil" recited in claims 10 and 17.

FIG. 6 shows an auxiliary card 41 which contains a coil 12 similar to the coil 12 of the noncontact information medium.

Accordingly, claims 7-12, 14-15 and 17 have been amended to distinguish between the first coil of the noncontact information medium and the second coil contained on an auxiliary card.

Claims 7-9 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication US2003/0178483 to Wakabayashi (hereafter "Wakabayashi").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Wakabayashi discloses a noncontact communication medium in which an output of a resonant circuit 60 which electromagnetically couples with an external communications apparatus is rectified and taken out, and a resultant output voltage V is monitored by a switch control circuit 61. After the output voltage V has risen to or beyond a threshold V_{th1} , a switch element SW is turned on and off, and a state of the switch element SW in which the output voltage V becomes higher is determined. While holding the switch element SW in the state thus determined, a power supply switch element PSW is turned on when the output voltage V has further risen. As a result, even when a plurality of noncontact IC cards 6 overlaid with one another are brought close to the communications apparatus, the individual noncontact IC cards 6 can carry out data communication.

FIG. 3 shows that switch SW is not part of the turns of wire making up coil L.

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This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the part of the conductor which is cut off is in at least one turn of the conductor forming the coil.

Accordingly, claims 10 and 17 have been amended to clarify this distinction and claim 13 has been canceled.

It should also be noted that by the claimed structure in which a first coil has at least one a part of the at least one turn of a conductor cut off, there is such a further advantage that only when a plurality of noncontact information medium are gathered, they start operating, and by changing the distance between the two adjacent noncontact information media, the number of the noncontact information medium that can communicate with a reader-writer can be determined, so that a series of a plurality of noncontact information medium can be controlled per lot unit in a factory or the like. As a result of this, when a false object other than a noncontact information medium is hidden in the series of noncontact information media, it can be easily discovered during the control operation. This feature is not disclosed in Wakabayashi.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 7-12 and 14-17, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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